

**Female pilots**

714. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the number of female pilots are increasing day by day in the aviation sector in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the future programmes of Government for further increase in the number of female pilots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of female pilots working in airlines has increased from 88 as on 01.01.2004 to 257 till 26.02.2007.

(c) The rules governing grant of pilot licences are gender neutral. The fact that more and more women are taking civil flying as a profession bears testimony to the fact that the extant system is working satisfactorily.

**Congestion at airports**

715. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the specific reasons for the sudden spurt and phenomenal increase in the number of air passengers resulting in almost all major airports to be crowded and congested and worse than bus-stands;
- (b) whether this increase was expected;
- (c) if so, why action in advance was not taken;
- (d) if not, why it could not be gauged; and
- (e) the crisis management now envisaged to deal with problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The reasons for sudden spurt in the number of air passengers are due to following factors— Economic reforms, Fast industrial development, Rapid increase in buying power of sizeable